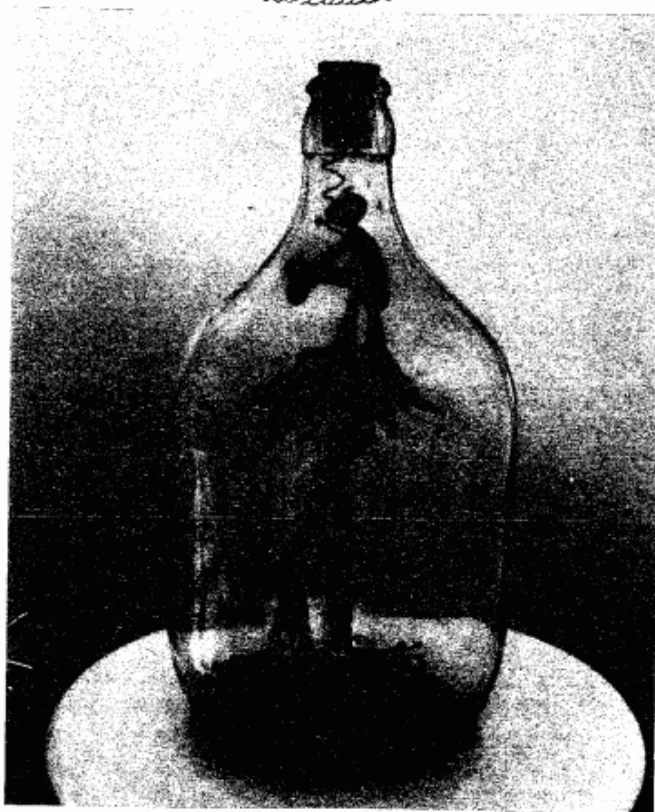




2009-2



Bob de Jongste, sent this with love from cold, stormy Holland. Above top to bottom, Popeye, Oliveoyl, and Little baby Swee'pea. Well done Bob.

**JOURNAL OF THE SHIPS-IN-BOTTLES  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA INC.**

# The Bottle Shipwright

**THE BOTTLE SHIPWRIGHT** is the journal of the Ships-in-Bottles Association of America. Production and mailing are handled by unpaid volunteer members of the association. The journal is published quarterly and is dedicated to the promotion of the traditional nautical art of building ships in bottles.

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**MEMBERSHIP** in the Association is open to any person, regardless of ability as a Ship-in-Bottle builder. For a membership application, please write to the Membership Chairman—Don Hubbard, P. O. Box 180550, Coronado, CA 92178-0550 U.S.A. **ANNUAL DUES** ARE \$ 25.00 per year, for both North American and Overseas members, except for Overseas members wishing to receive The Bottle Shipwright, via First Class Mail. The dues for those members are \$28.00 per year. Dues should be sent to Don Hubbard at the above address.

**DO NOT SEND CASH. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY.**

**ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS** for publication in **THE BOTTLE SHIPWRIGHT** should be sent to the editor at 5075 FREEPORT DRIVE, SPRING HILL, FLORIDA 34606 U.S.A. Material which should be returned to the sender should be clearly indicated. Every effort will be made to safeguard such material, but the association cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. The Editor may be required to modify articles or submissions within the context of the original to fit the format and page length of the publication. **WRITTEN AND SIGNED PERMISSION MUST ACCOMPANY ANY MATERIALS SUBMITTED.** Articles taken from another publication will not be used without express written permission, from that publication. A copy of the permission slip to be used appears in each issue of **THE BOTTLE SHIPWRIGHT**. Anyone submitting materials for publication in The Bottle Shipwright, may make as many photo copies as needed, or obtain additional copies, by sending a S.A.S.E. to the Editor at the address above

**DEADLINE** for submission is the second month of each quarter.

**PATCHES** for the Ships-in-Bottles Association of America are available from **RAY HANDWERKER**, 5075 FREEPORT DRIVE, SPRING HILL, FL. 34606. Please send check or money order payable to Ray Handwerker. The 4 inch embroidered patches are :\$5. each. We now have Baseball caps at \$10. each. Get them before they run out!. No need to cut out the order blank below. Just photocopy this form or hand copy the necessary information to a separate piece of paper and mail it to the above address.

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# The Bottle Shipwright

Volume - 27.

Number - 2.

ON THE COVER - Bob de Jongst's  
Popeye, and Oliveoyl, with baby  
Swee"pea in a bottle.

BACK COVER- Cilpper ship on a  
bottle stand by David Gormley.

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Permission to Publish	

## AN APPEAL FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

C.Hand.

The 1989 SIBAA membership list included 252. The present list numbers about 135. That seems a significant decline.

I would like to ask all members for their thoughts and opinions as to what can - or should be - done to reverse this situation. My feeling is something needs to be done, but what?

It would be helpful if you would also indicate your willingness to serve SIBAA in a voluntary manner.

Sorry, I lack e-mail, so it will cost you a stamp. I promise to read any and all suggestions and will keep your name confidential if you prefer. I'll also collate the results and circulate them to the officers for suited action.

Please give this some careful thought and mail your recommendations to:

SIBAA  
217 Rogers Hill Road  
Canton, NC 28716-5896

Dear Bottleship Friends.

Since I use "SKYPE" on my computer, which makes it possible to see and speak to my friends on the screen. Could you be so kind as to ask in the next issue if there are any members who use Skype also???

Bob de Jongste - bobdejongste@wxs.nl

And Our treasurer has some 5 Gallon bottles for sale, He can be contacted at . 113 Hacienda Dr. Napa, California. 94558.

**I may be schizophrenic,  
but at least I have each other.**

Send Material for the Editor to-----  
 5075 Freeport Drive, Spring Hill, FL., 34606.  
 bt1shprt@tampabay.rr.com

*Ray Handwerker*

We are back with another issue, hope you like it. We are still looking for a new President, so if anyone feels the urge to volunteer, please write to us. My thanks to those of you who sent in some input. Can use more, and see if you can sign up some new members, we can use some of them to.

Not much else to say.

Now ,lets refill those bottles.

# WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS.

LCDR John M.Keydash, USN (Ret) 2321 nE 15th Ct Jensen Beach, FL.34957-5105

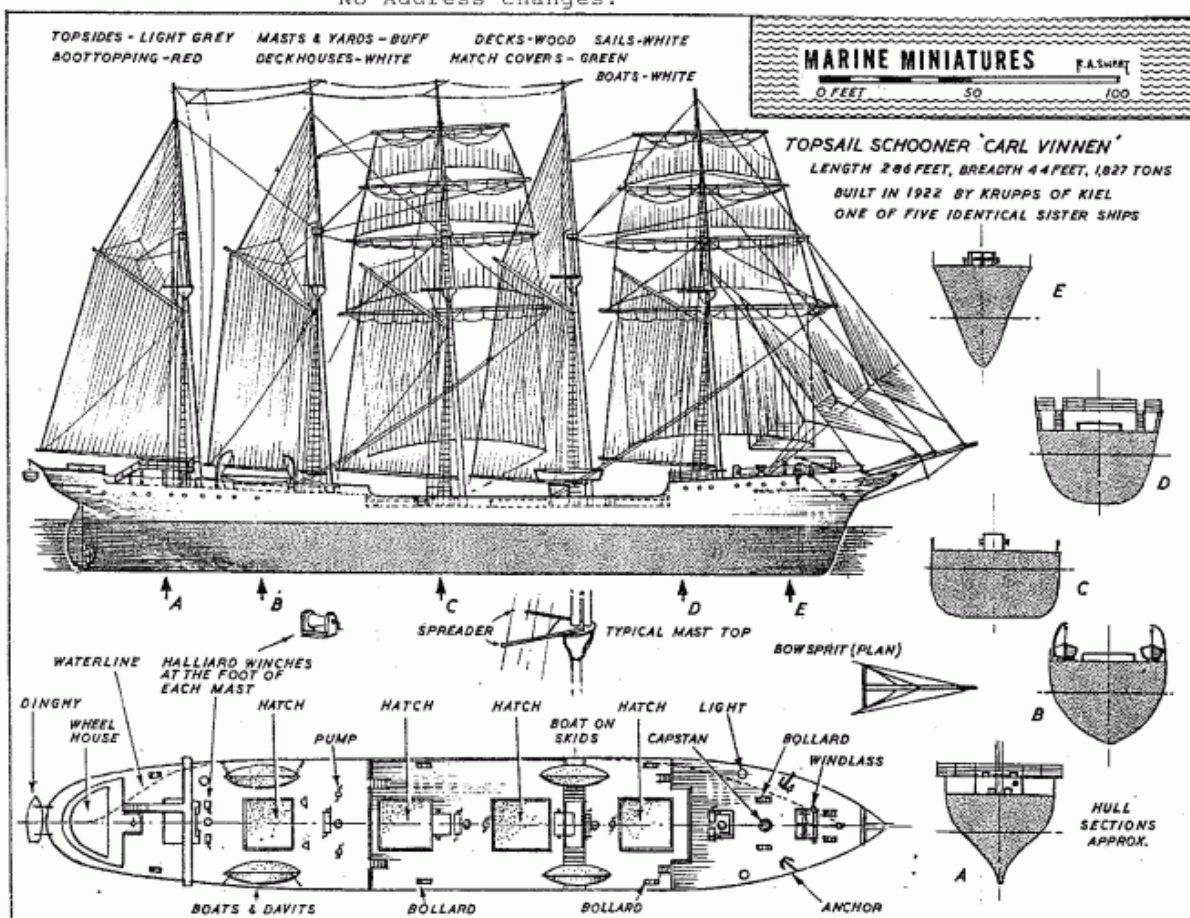
E-Mail: commander-k@commander-k.com

E-Mail Address changes.

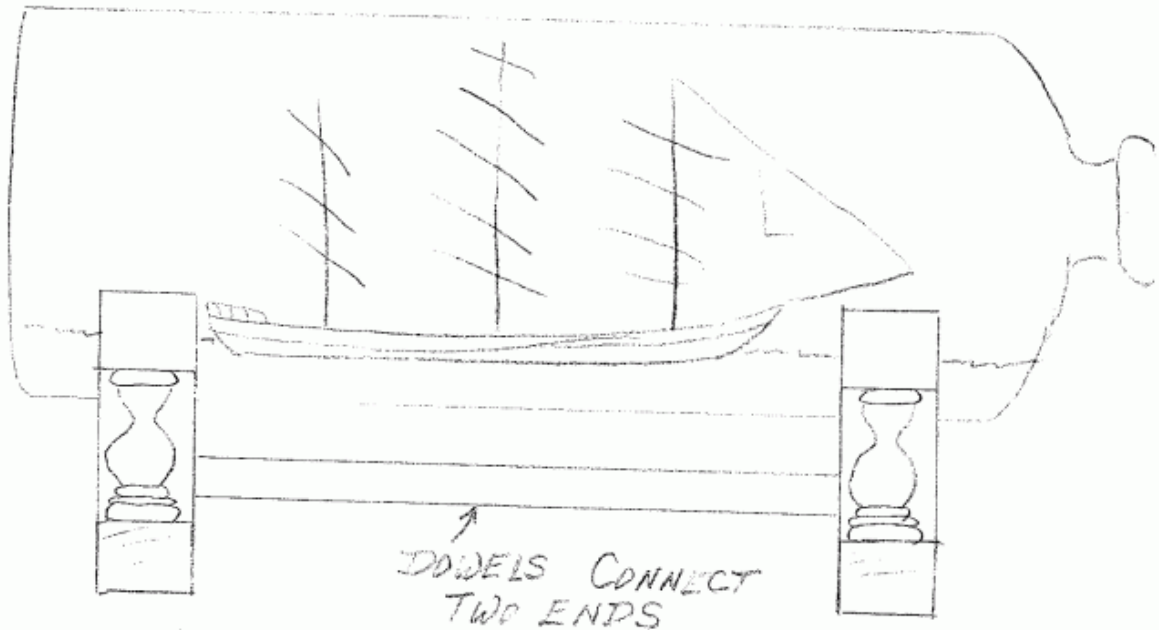
Bob Vitullo-- flyman@core.com

Tom Smith-- tsmith770@windstream.net.

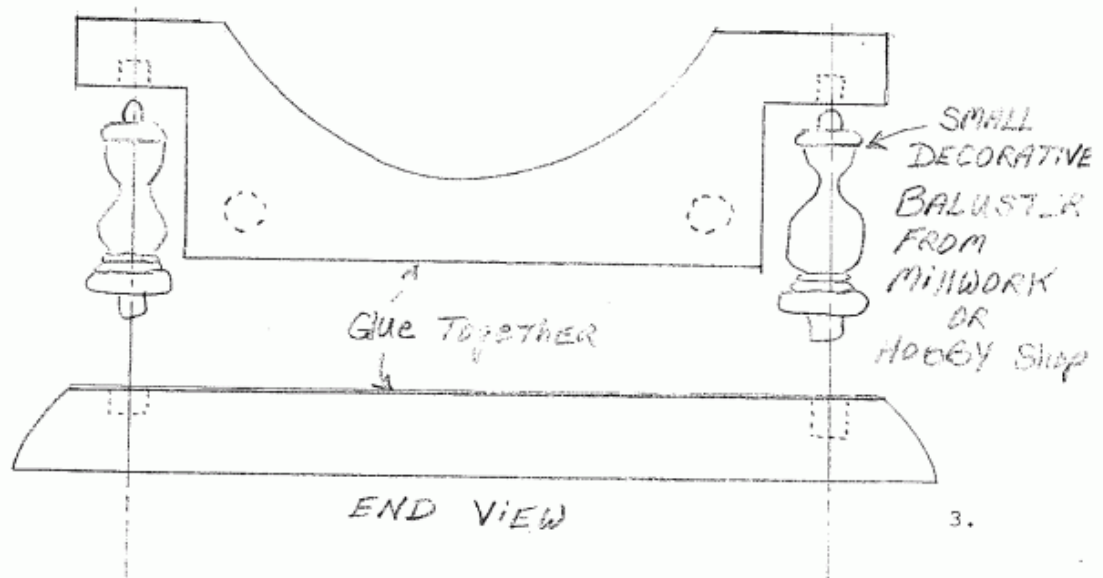
No Address changes.



**SHIP IN BOTTLE STAND.**  
by David J. Gormley.

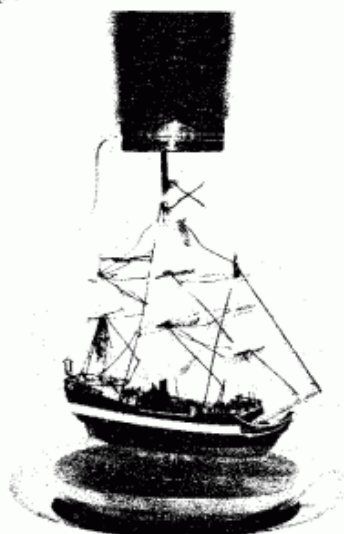


A diagram of a stand for a ship in a bottle that can be made to fit most any size bottle. It looks very nice and is fancy enough to put on a mantle, but is easy and very inexpensive to make. I use a piece of 1x3 strapping and a band saw. See back cover for finished stand and ship photo's.

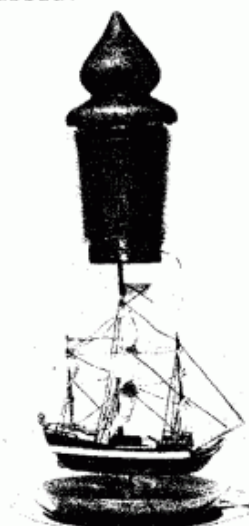
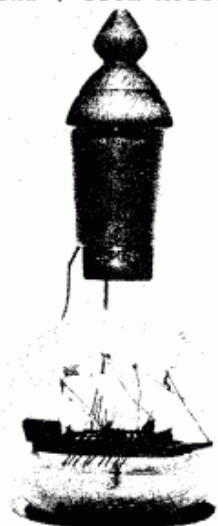




We welcome one new member in this issue, LCDR JohnKeydash, USN (Ret) of Jensen Beach, Florida. He claims to have limited experience, but has two projects underway. And one cardboard kit completed. Welcome aboard and remember that this is your journal. It is about what you do and how you do it. Send use pictures of your works, any hints, tips, new materials that you have used, write an article, ask a question, we will try to help.



Two of Artem Popov's works , from Moscow Russia.





### Investment tips for 2008

With all the turmoil in the market today and the collapse of Lehman Bros and Acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America this might be some good advice. For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks.

Watch for these consolidations in later this year:

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W.R. Grace Co. Will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
2. Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: Poly, Warner Cracker.
3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become: MMMGood.
4. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: ZipAudiDoDa .
5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become: FedUP.
6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.
7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: PouponPants.  
  
Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW!  
  
And finally,
8. Victoria 's Secret and Smith & Wesson will merge under the new name: TittyTittyBangBang



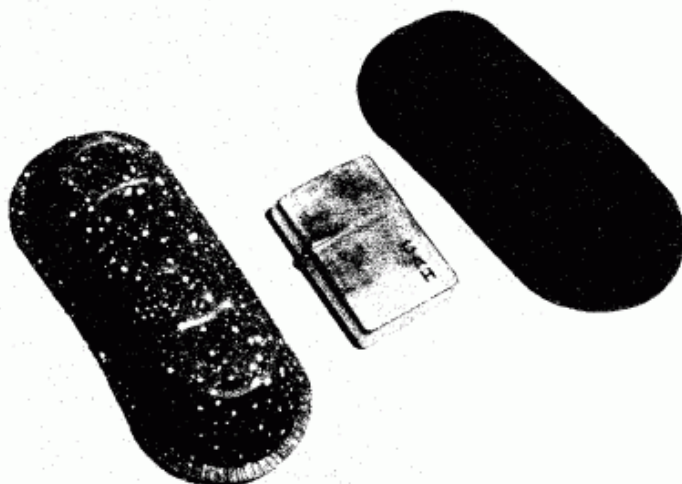
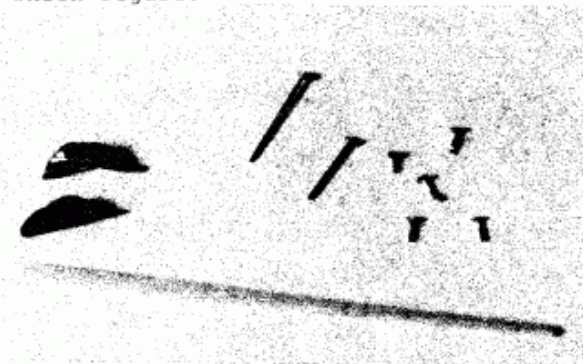


Right side of picture also has steps in fashioning a cleat by grinding half-pin head. cleats were used on sloop masts and deck.



Left, a 1.75L. unusual bottles in that the threaded cap and threaded plastic insert can be removed by slicing off the stiff plastic sleeve outside the neck. Only one side of the bottle is suited for clear viewing, two have finger indentations and the third has an embossed emblem.

Below, left side of picture, bicorn hats, I made to send John and Jane to add to scale figures on bottled sloop Lovey too. One hat has gold piping and the other silver, and I jokingly asked which he'll put on which figure.



Left, pic shows a cardboard cup used in Larry's brand microwavable baked potatoes. Painted black it resembles the upper housing on the CSS Virginia (former Merrimack).

From C.Hand

## Tools and Tips

*Re-published articles & letters edited by Bill Sheridan*

Original Tool Article: **Building Techniques by Alex Cuthbert**

Author: **Alex Cuthbert**

Not Previously Published: **Original Letter Sent to Terry Butler on April 30, 2007**

I never learned to type, nor do I own a computer, so if I make a mistake, I'll use whiteout for correction. I didn't send this letter with the hope of it being published, but do as you please with it. (*Editor's note: Sorry Alex this was too good to pass up!*)

I offer a prelude, so that the following will make sense, as my method of SIBBING is different from others. I don't set my hull into the seabed until I have placed a wood strip, seagulls and lighthouse into a partial sea. The details are as follows:

### **BOTTLE:**

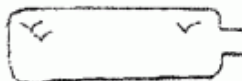
I wash it inside and out with dish soap and dry with a paper towel. It is then rinsed inside with rubbing alcohol and dried again. I save the alcohol for re-use. Using 1/2 inch masking tape, lay a strip the length of the bottle centered on the outside seam of the bottle. This tape will be a guide in centering the ship. At the same time add two other strips to parallel the first one at the same length, on the right and left hand sides in the same manner. The distance between the first strip and the two additional strips will be your decision as to the width of the sea. The strips are just guides to the width and levelness of the sea. They will be removed when no longer needed, as they get more difficult to remove with time.

I next add seagulls while the bottle is still empty. From white mail envelopes I cut with small curved scissors the shape shown in figure 1. Cover the wings with a very thin coating on one side and leave the beak dry in order to use small tweezers to manipulate the gull on a contrivance of your making to apply two seagulls to the back of the bottle and one on the front to avoid blocking the view of the ship as shown in figure 2. I use a tool as shown in figure 3 to apply the glued side of the gull to the inside of the glass. With the glued side up, apply some sputum to the tool to hold the gull through the neck and it's placement on the glass. You can pre-mark the location of the gulls with a small piece of masking tape on the outside of the bottle as a guide. If you mar the glass with too much excess Elmer's Glue, leave it to dry and scrape it off later after it dries.

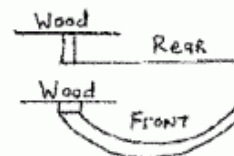
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



With the masking tape guides and gulls in place, use a Popsicle stick or an equivalent size stick to paint in your name, city and year on one side of the stick. Apply Elmer's

**I am having an out-of-money experience.**

7.

(Continued)

Glue to the same side of the stick and place it in the center of the masking tape guide that you created in the previous steps. To do this step, I use a "grabber tool" that I purchased in an auto parts shop that is used to pick up small bolts and screws that may have fallen inside the engine block. This tool is approximately 12 inches long and I modified it by cutting off two of the tines. When the stick with name, city and date is in place, allow 24 hours for the glue to set and make sure the printing is legible from the outside of the bottle.

If you decide to add a lighthouse, glue a dowel about one inch from the end of the Popsicle stick. The dowel should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in length with a diameter less than the hole drilled at the base of the lighthouse. The dowel is a guide for placing and securing the lighthouse. Figure 4 shows some examples of lighthouses that I built using BIC pens. Once the gulls, base and lighthouse are in place you can begin constructing the sea.

#### SEA:

Place the sea only around the area of the lighthouse to the point where the transom of the hull would set in your bottle. Add rocks and white waves around the lighthouse prior to inserting your ship inside the bottle. See figure 5.

#### HULL:

Figure 6 shows a typical hull that I build with a groove along its base. The groove facilitates rigging lines that exit at the bottom of the hull along the waterline. These lines exit the hull on the starboard side and will be covered up later with bow waves as shown in figure 7. The mast hinges extend through the deck and then are twisted under the hull inside the groove area to secure them. The tail of the twist must be bent forward to avoid rigging lines hanging up as they pass through the groove.

Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

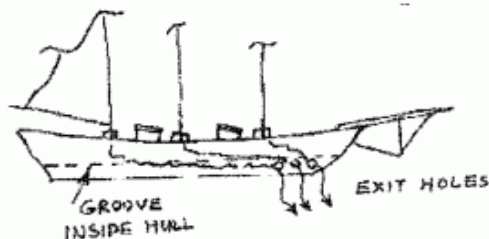


Figure 8



8.

The statement below is true.  
The statement above is false.

(Continued)

The groove is enclosed with a paper cover glued to each side of the groove as shown in figure 8. Make sure that all the lines and rigging are free to move through this area and that the glue has not fouled any of the lines to prevent them from running freely.

#### SHIP:

When ready, the ship is placed into the bottle with the masts partially raised and all sails and lines are clear of contact with the glued portions that are about to be applied to the Popsicle stick base. With the neck of the bottle to the right, lay the partially raised ship against the port side of the bottle. This is done to allow clearance for applying glue to the base of the stick. Only about 1-½ inches of the aft portion of the base stick needs glue to anchor the ship securely. See figure 9. Figure 10 shows a device that I use to get the glue onto the base stick. It is shaped like a ladle made from a BIC safety razor cut to receive a wooden handle of your choice.

After the glue is applied, use the "grabber tool" mentioned earlier to lift and position the ship onto the wet glue so it is aligned fore and aft as desired. Within 24 hours after the glue has set, the bond is so strong horses could not budge the ship. After the ship is in place, the rest of the sea and waves can be applied to finish the job.

I devised this "daffy method" after becoming frustrated with pulling the ship out of the seabed on the first few SIB models that I built. Everyone to their own method, I just wanted to share mine with the other SIBAA members. Best Regards, Alex

Figure 9

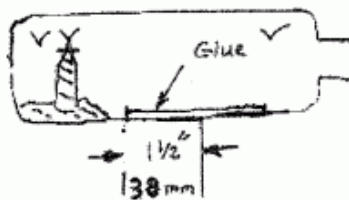
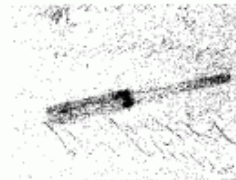


Figure 10



\*\*\*\*\*

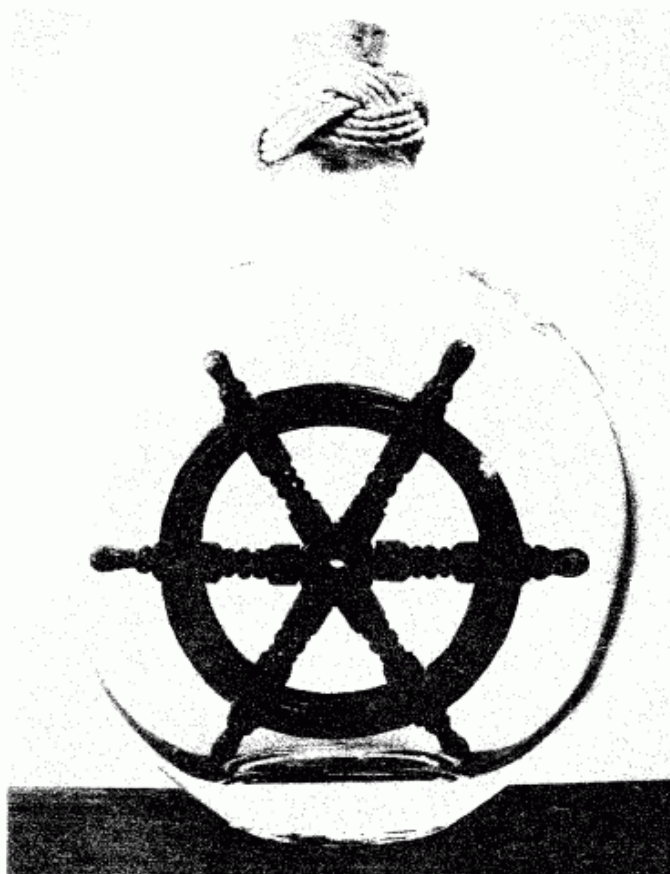
Original Tip Article: **Some More Tricks of the Trade – Landscape Trees**

Author: **Bill Cheek**

Previously Published: **Bottle Shipwright 2005-1**

In North America, the Butler Company markets an electric toothbrush under the name PROXABRUSH. Refills for this can be purchased or obtained free from your dentist. The #614 tapered conical refill is a dead ringer for a miniature fir tree when painted up a little. I regularly contrive to have a few fire trees around my lighthouse keeper's cottage.

**I have kleptomania,  
but when it gets bad,  
I take something for it.**



## Re-inventing the Wheel

by Terry Shuler

After finding this special round bottle at a thrift shop it was just a matter of finding the perfect object to put into it. A wheel seemed the perfect choice, but no instructions could be found on how to make one, and there didn't seem to be any photos of a project like this done. So, ship wheel photos were found on the internet and a plan of action was formed. First it was determined the spokes of the wheel would best be made with a miniature lathe. This wasn't in the workshop so a used one was obtained on ebay. Then, since it wasn't a tool I was familiar with, that had to be learned. The walnut being used was harder than the usual basswood so it was decided small

files worked better than regular lathe tools. Most of the pieces were cut from 1/4" walnut including the hub. To give the appearance of a brass hub, two sizes of brass washers were added to each side of the wooden hub and then a dremel sanding drum was used to make the wooden parts of the hub flush with the brass washers. Six holes were drilled at even intervals around the hub. The spokes were also drilled and small pieces of wire cut from paper clips were used as connector pieces. The circular shaped pieces were cut as shown in the photo and pieced to fit. Connector pieces were also made for these pieces from paper clip wire. The narrower circular shaped wooden half circles were cut from 1/8" walnut. Two half circle shaped pieces were needed for each side of the wheel. Once all the pieces were cut, sanded, shaped, drilled, and tentatively fit and placed, then the wheel needed to be disassembled and each piece varnished a couple of times. After sufficient time to dry, the process of putting the wheel together inside the bottle began. The hardest part was not being able to clamp anything for drying. In the future I plan to use small pieces of masking tape to aid in holding pieces together to prevent some pieces from easing apart during drying. The smaller 1/8" pieces especially wanted to warp during the gluing process so tape should be used at regular intervals while adding these pieces especially. Even with the gluing challenges, the wheel went together easier than I had expected.

10.

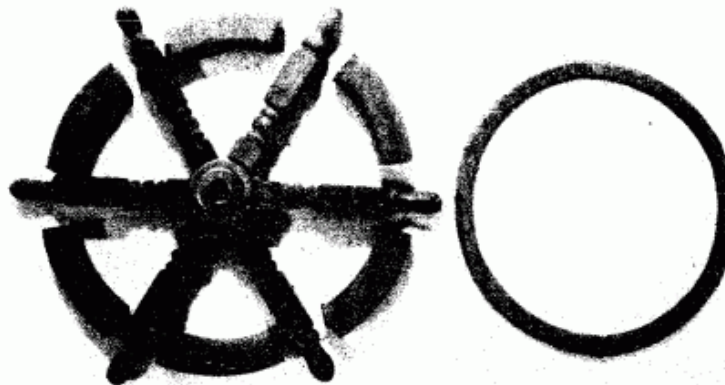
Step 1:

Cut spoke blanks, hub and larger circle halves from 1/4" walnut. Hub and washers need to fit through the bottle opening. The 1/4" thick half circle pieces will be cut apart later to fit between the finished spoke pieces. The blanks must be carved or shaped on a miniature wood lathe similar to the photo.



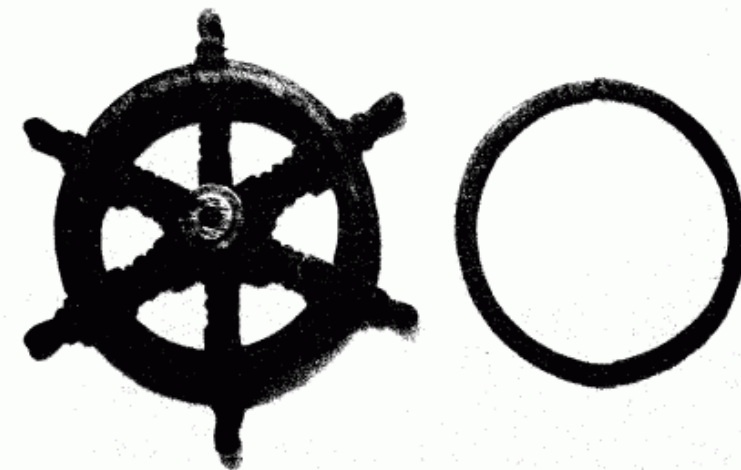
Step 2:

The washers are added to the hub and wood sanded flush. Connector pieces are added to the spokes and tentatively attached to the hub but not glued into place. The 1/4" half circles are cut into pieces to fit in between the spokes. There will be pieces leftover after all six parts are cut. Four narrower half circles need to be cut and shaped from 1/8" walnut for the decorative trim on each side.



Step 3:

All pieces are assembled but not glued to test for fit. Take apart carefully noting the position of each piece. Varnish each piece at least twice. To assemble inside the bottle, first glue two spokes onto the hub opposite from each other. Insert that into the bottle and then add one curved piece, the next spoke, and so on until the main wheel is together allowing time to dry before adding other pieces. Add the trim pieces on each side being sure to tape in place while drying.



## NOTES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

by  
Don Hubbard

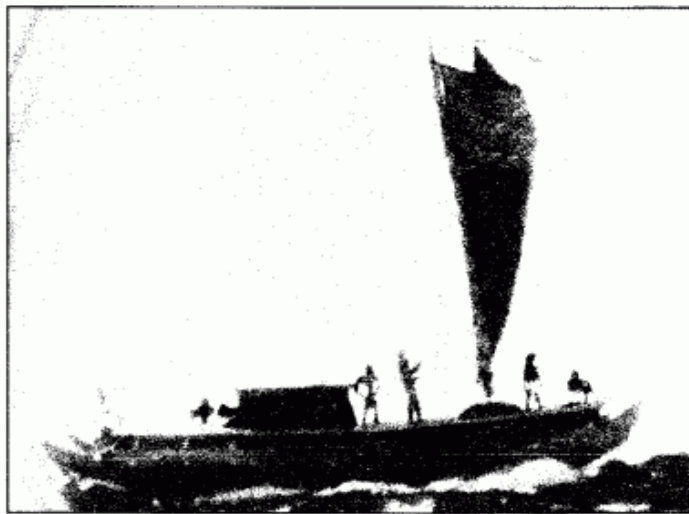
Again, our thanks to the generous members who added a donation to their membership checks. Jim Treadwell, Coronado, CA ; Clifford Alleman, Springville, UT; Alexander Cuthbert, Syracuse, NY

**Now Hear This - This is your Membership Chairman Speaking:  
Ouch!**

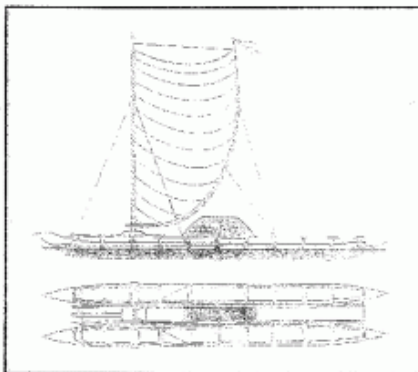
Our membership is dwindling and anyone who is living knows why. Everyone has taken hits to their income and savings accounts. Money has become precious, so less essential things like club memberships are often removed from the budget. We understand this, but we also appeal to you to see if you can't find your way clear to rejoin our exclusive group. Many of you are due for renewal with this issue. Please see if you can't unearth the bucks to do it. Many thanks! Don



Polynesian Ocean Going Canoe by Don Hubbard



Details of the model. Gift to the Japanese for their SIB Museum in Osaka



Plans from my book,

Of all the seafarers in the world, none deserve more respect than the ancestral discoverers of Polynesia who left Asia for the uncharted waters of the Pacific more than 3,500 years ago. The hulls were made of hand hewn wooden planks held together with wooden pegs and woven coconut fiber and caulked with pitch from the breadfruit tree. The canoe shown here is derived from one measured by Captain Cook which had a hull length of 70", a width of 12' and a depth of 3'5". This model was great fun to build. The small figures were made of fine wire coated with epoxy glue and painted.



A TRIBUTE TO OUR FRIEND HAROLD C. GILE

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of one of our earliest members, Harold C. Gile, who left us on February 26th after a long bout with cancer.

Those of you who have been members for a while will remember the many innovative and detailed articles on ship bottling which Harold submitted to COMPASS CARD, the Journal of the European Association, to which we once belonged. And when we made the decision to form our own North American group, which Harold was the first to recommend, it was his suggestion that we name our new journal, THE BOTTLE SHIPWRIGHT.

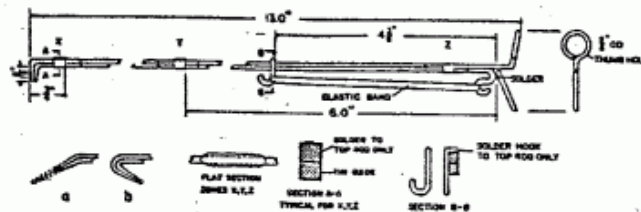
Harold Gile was my friend, he was Jack Hinkley's friend, and he was a friend to the many builders who benefited from his interesting and perceptive articles. We will all miss him.

DON HUBBARD

A GRABBER-GRIPPER

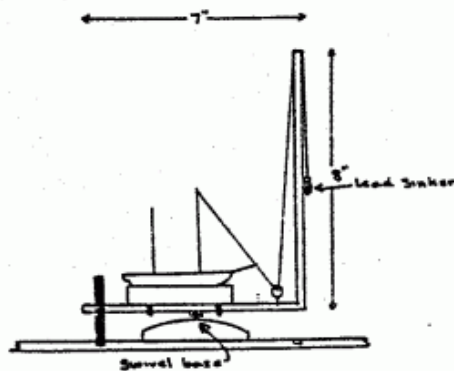
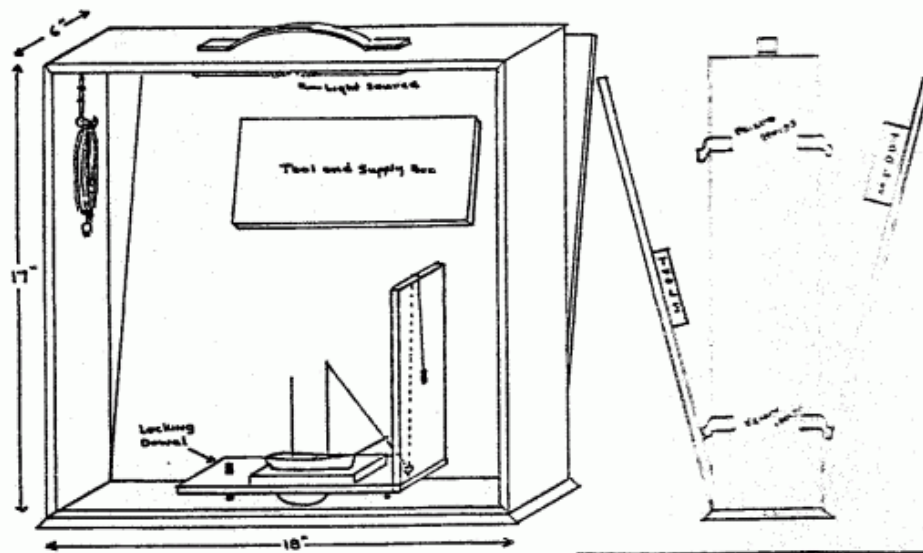
by  
Harold C. Gile

This article presents a design for a grabber-gripper for handling objects inside a bottle. It is a simple design made from wire, strips from a tin can, ordinary solder and an elastic band or tension spring.



The wire is steel wire of about 3/32" diameter. Coat hanger wire is suitable, but it is harder to shape unless it is formed hot. Either hot or cold forming may be used. The flattened area for zones X, Y, Z, detailed under "Flat Section" must be filed to the broken lines. Each mating pair of flats must also be surface filed so the thickness of each flat is the same. This will prevent a turning motion when the rod is assembled. As shown in views "a" and "b" alternate shapes may be used for the jaws, the latter being to work behind another object. The jaws may be given additional holding power by wrapping with masking tape, or, better still, epoxy bonding a piece of fine emory cloth to each mating surface.

## ROLSTON'S RIGGING RACK



Recently I was faced with the problem of transporting my partially finished work from place to place while teaching a course in our art. How to get all the tools and the model, model stand, and without damage? I solved the problem by building this convenient and inexpensive case frame. It not only worked nicely for class use, but reduced my storage space requirements between building sessions as well. The beauty of it is that you can have it in just a few hours and the cost of materials is minimal. Perhaps the most important feature is the model stand which is attached to a pivot (in my case a old door Lazy Susan swivel, but small ball bearing pivots can be purchased at any hardware store for about \$1.50)

The frame is made of 6" X 1 1/2" lumber. Sides and back are of 1/2" plywood for light weight. The ship itself is mounted on a small removable piece of wood with a drop of white glue from which it can be sliced off when done. The removable piece is attached to the swivel base by means of dowels. The swivel case, meanwhile, is also secured by a dowel so that it faces either right or left. Finally, the lines are kept under tension by small fishing sinkers.

**Reality is only an illusion  
that occurs due to a lack of alcohol.**

My light source consists of double 40 Watt aquarium bulbs with reflector. The cord hangs on the hook inside case when not in use.

Tool and parts storage is provided in two compartments attached to the alternate sides. The storage cases should be mounted so that they are high enough to avoid interfering with the model, but low enough to miss the light.

The two sides are attached to the frame by Velcro strips while transporting, and a handle is provided for carrying.

THIS CASE WORKS! My wife is happy because it stores easily, I am happy because I can transport my model and tools in safety and still be ready to work in minutes, and even the forks in our local miniature furniture club are happy. They are all building them to use in their own craft.

*John R.*

#### A WAY TO ATTACH A LABEL INSIDE THE BOTTLE

by

Russell R. Rowley

One way I've found to put a permanent label on the inside of a bottle is to use spar varnish. A varnished label will not discolor or move when the putty is put in place. I think that some old ships-in-bottles were literally put together with varnish, and then finally fastened to the inside of the bottle with this same material. Sometimes even the shrouds appeared to have been varnished as well.

Labels can be made on ordinary notebook paper and I suggest you do your writing with a technical pen and waterproof India ink in its various colors. Technical pens cost about \$12.00 U.S. at most art stores, but you can do very fine line work with them (reef points, boltropes, clewlines, etc.) so they are worth the money. These pens are very much like the old fountain pens in that they have an ink reservoir in them, but because they are capable of producing very fine lines you can put far more information on your small piece of paper.

With the label prepared, dip the end of a piece of coat hanger wire into the varnish to a depth of about 1/4 inch. Just a drop! Then touch this to the spot in the bottle where you want the label to be. Now wipe the wire almost dry but leave it sticky enough to pick the label up and glide it over the varnish drop where it is set in place. Use the wire to tamp the label down making sure it is well set. Finally, transport several more drops of varnish to the top of the label, one at a time in the same way, until the paper is saturated. It is most important to keep the bottle level during all this and to have the label at the very bottom. Wet varnish will run and just a little will run a long way.

The paper label will appear to be translucent when the varnish is applied, and after a few days when it is dry you can put in your putty "ocean" without worrying about the label moving or the putty getting between it and the glass. Round bottles are a bit harder to do than flat ones, but if you roll the paper slightly before inserting it you will help to insure a more rapid attachment to the curved surface.

RUSSELL R. ROWLEY

15.

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While our title indicates that we are an American organization, we have members as far afield as New Zealand, Australia, India, Japan, many European countries, as well as throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Our Journal, **THE BOTTLE SHIPWRIGHT**, is published quarterly and introduces ideas of ship-bottling submitted by our diverse and talented membership. The Journal also contains news of our bi-annual conferences in various parts of the country, competitions and exhibits, articles about bottling ships, photos of member's works, modeling plans and other material related to the art. As a result of the Association many members correspond with one another throughout the world and many new and close friendships have been formed.

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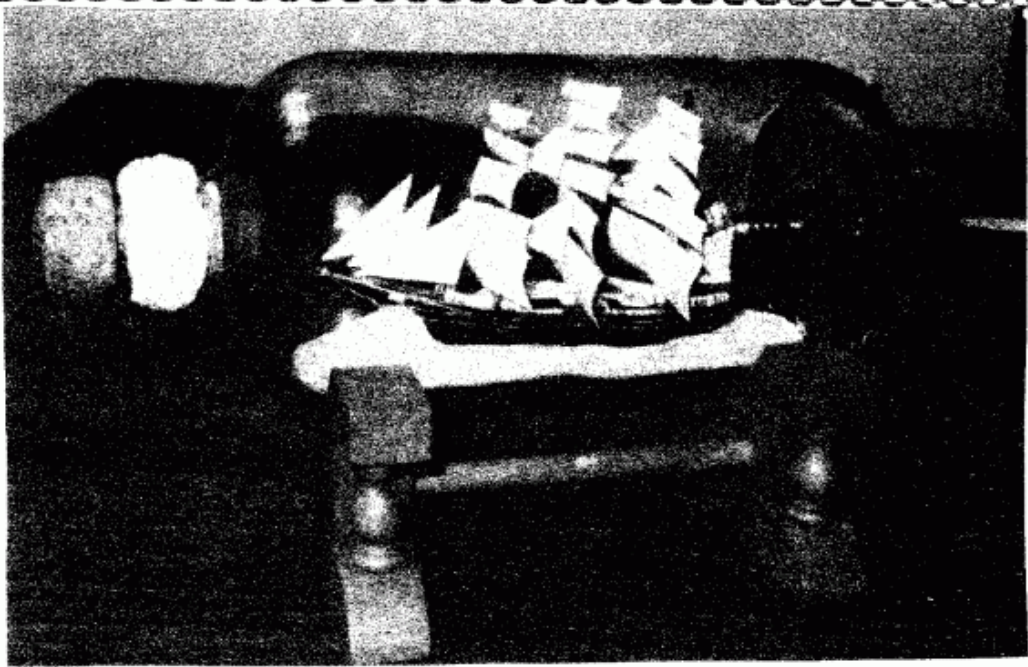
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From David J. Gormley , his Clipper Ship in a bottle on a stand he designed and built. It's easy and inexpensive, and the balusters can be bought for about .25¢ at a hobby shop.

